

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1.-13. (CANCELED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A polymeric foam comprising:  
a polymeric matrix; and  
a plurality of multifunctional microcapsules distributed in the polymeric matrix,  
the microcapsules including a ~~functional~~ core material that provides a flame retarding  
function surrounded by a layer of a ~~functional~~ shell composition that provides at least one  
of fire retarding, flame suppressing, conductivity modifying, thermal stabilizing or  
insecticidal functions.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The polymeric foam according to claim 14,  
wherein:  
the ~~functional~~ core material includes a major portion of flame retardant; and  
the ~~functional~~ shell material includes a major polymeric component and a minor  
functional additive component.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~ A polymeric foam according to claim ~~14~~ 15,  
wherein:  
the polymeric ~~foam~~ matrix includes a polystyrene; and  
the microcapsules have a median diameter of less than 5  $\mu$ m.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A polymeric foam according to claim ~~1415~~,  
wherein:

the major polymeric component includes at least one or more materials selected from a group consisting of melamine formaldehyde, polyvinyl alcohol, polyester and polycarbonate; and

the minor functional additive component includes at least one or more materials selected from a group consisting of fire retardants, flame suppressors, conductivity modifiers, thermal stabilizers and insecticides.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The polymeric foam according to claim ~~1415~~,  
wherein:

the flame retardant ~~is includes one or more materials~~ selected from a group consisting of HBCD, DCP, BE-51 ~~and~~ TPP and mixtures thereof; and

the major polymeric component ~~is includes~~ melamine formaldehyde and the minor functional additive component includes zinc borate.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The polymeric foam according to claim ~~1415~~,  
wherein:

the microcapsules account for between about 0.25 and about 10 weight percent of the polymeric foam; and

the microcapsules have a median diameter no larger than about 5 microns.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A~~ The polymeric foam according to claim ~~1415~~,  
wherein:

the flame retardant ~~is includes one or more materials~~ selected from a group consisting of HBCD, DCP, BE-51, ~~and~~ TPP and mixtures thereof; and

the major polymeric component ~~includes is~~ a polyurethane and the minor functional additive component includes zinc borate.